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**MEMORANDUM  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS**

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**TO:** Comissioner Rebeca Sosa  
District 6

**DATE:** June 18, 2004

**FROM:** Amy Gonzalez-Hernandez, Esq.  **SUBJECT:** Commission salary information

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Attached is the information you requested, should you have any questions, please contact me.

Table 1. Salaries of County Commissioners for 10 Largest Counties in Miami-Dade County for FY03-04

Jurisdiction	Census 2000 Population	Actual County Commissioner Salary	Salary based on State formula	Salary Calculation Basis	Term Limits
Miami-Dade County	2,253,362	\$6,000	\$84,213	County Charter	none
Broward County	1,623,018	\$84,213	\$84,213	State formula	3 consecutive 4 year terms
Palm Beach County	1,131,184	\$84,213	\$84,213	State formula	8 consecutive years
Hillsborough County	998,948	\$84,213	\$84,213	County Charter - Commissioners are paid 75% or more of the salary determined by state formula. The Chairperson is paid an additional 10% of the basic salary for the term of the chair.	2 consecutive 3 year terms
Pinellas County	921,482	\$82,978	\$82,978	State formula	none
Orange County	896,344	\$65,458	\$83,387	County Charter - Effec. Jan. 1997, commissioner salary was \$56,083 and county chairman salary was \$112,500. Subsequent increases the lesser of CPI or the % increase of County employees' salary.	2 consecutive 4 year terms
Duval County/Jacksonville	778,879	\$40,323	\$80,646	County Charter - Commissioners are paid 50% of the salary per state formula and the Council President receives that salary and an additional one-third of the salary per state formula.	2 consecutive 4 year terms
Polk County	483,924	\$35,659	\$74,901	County Charter - Effec. Nov. 2000, the salary was \$33,500. Any subsequent increases must be approved unanimously by Board via ordinance. Increase cannot be more than CPI.	2 consecutive 4 year terms
Brevard County	476,230	\$58,308	\$74,746	County Charter - salary is set by ordinance every two years. The increase in salary cannot exceed the average percentage increase in the salaries of County employees.	2 consecutive 4 year terms
Volusia County	443,343	\$37,051	\$74,102	County Charter - 50% of the salary per state formula. The Chair is paid 60%.	2 consecutive 4 year terms

Table 2. Salaries of City Councilpersons for 10 Largest Cities in Miami-Dade County for FY03-04

Jurisdiction	Census 2000 Population	City Councilperson Salary
Jacksonville/Duval	778,879	\$40,323
Miami	362,470	\$58,200
Tampa	303,447	\$28,964
St. Petersburg	248,232	\$25,748
Hialeah	226,419	not received by publishing
Orlando	185,951	\$37,772
Fort Lauderdale	152,397	not received by publishing
Tallahassee	150,624	public records request pending
Pembroke Pines	137,427	public records request pending
Hollywood	139,357	\$24,000

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## Salaries and Benefits of U.S. Congress Members

**Rank & File Senators and Representatives make \$158,100 a year**

### Congress: Rank-and-File Members' Salary

The current salary for rank-and-file members of the House and Senate is \$158,100 per year.

- Members are free to turn down pay increase and some choose to do so.

- In a complex system of calculations, administered by the [Office of Personnel Management](#), congressional pay rates also affect the salaries for federal judges and other senior government officials.

- During the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin considered proposing that elected government officials not be paid for their service. Other Founding Fathers, however, decided otherwise.

- From 1789 to 1815, members of Congress received only a per diem (daily payment) of \$6.00 while in session. Members began receiving an annual salary in 1815, when they were paid \$1,500 per year.

### Congress: Leadership Members' Salary (108th Congress)

Leaders of the House and Senate are paid a higher salary than rank-and-file members.

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### Senate Leadership

Majority Leader - \$175,600

Minority Leader - \$175,600

### House Leadership

Speaker of the House -

\$203,000

Majority Leader - \$175,600

Minority Leader - \$175,600

- A cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) increase takes effect annually unless Congress votes to not accept it.

### Congress: Benefits

Members of Congress receive retirement and health benefits under the same plans available to other federal employees. They become vested after five years of full participation.

- Members elected since 1984 are covered by the Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS). Those elected prior to 1984 were covered by the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS). In 1984 all members were given the option of remaining with CSRS or switching to FERS.

- As it is for all other federal employees, congressional retirement is funded through taxes and the participants' contributions. Members of Congress under FERS contribute 1.3 percent of their salary into the FERS retirement plan and pay 6.2 percent of their salary in Social Security taxes.

Members of Congress are not eligible for a pension until they reach the age of 50, but only if they've completed 20 years of service. Members are eligible at any age after completing 25 years of service or after they reach the age of 62. Please also note that Member's of Congress have to serve at least 5 years to even receive a pension.

The amount of a Congressperson's pension depends on the years of service and the average of the highest 3 years of his or her salary. By law, the starting amount of a Member's retirement annuity may not exceed 80% of his or her final salary.

Data compiled in 20034 showed 413 retired Members of Congress were receiving federal pensions based fully or in part on their congressional service. The average age of those retiring under CSRS was 75.5 and had at least 20 years of federal service. Those who retired under FERS had an average age of 68.3 years and 21.6 years of federal service. Their

• [Thomas Legislative Information System](#)

### About Poll

Members of Congress are paid:

- ☐ Fairly  
☐ Too Much  
☐ Not Enough  
☐ Undecided

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average retirement payment was \$3,909 a month.

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# PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS

NOVEMBER 5, 1963

## PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 5

Amendment to The Home Rule Charter to provide for eight County Commission Districts, and for a nine member Board of County Commissioners, consisting of eight Commissioners, and a Mayor to be elected by the voters of the county at large, and providing for termination of the term of office of all present commissioners upon election of such new commissioners on the twelfth Tuesday following the effective date of this proposed amendment.

FOR THE AMENDMENT	70,391	
AGAINST THE AMENDMENT	57,167	

## PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 6

Amendment to Section 1.06 of The Home Rule Charter to provide a salary of \$15,000 for the Mayor and a salary of \$10,000 for other County Commissioners effective only upon the election of a Mayor and eight County Commissioners.

FOR THE AMENDMENT	47,010	
AGAINST THE AMENDMENT	76,645	

## PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 7

Amendment to Section 0.03 of The Home Rule Charter to change the name of Dade County to County of Miami.

FOR THE AMENDMENT	45,420	
AGAINST THE AMENDMENT	87,179	

## PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 8

Amendment to The Home Rule Charter to provide that charter amendment may be proposed by initiatory petitions of not less than ten percent of registered voters, only during years in which state primary and general elections are held; providing that county commission may propose charter amendments at any time; and prescribing times when elections on charter amendments shall be held.

FOR THE AMENDMENT	58,427	
AGAINST THE AMENDMENT	56,591	

## PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 9

Amendment to Section 6.01 of The Home Rule Charter to provide for the selection and tenure of Metropolitan Court Judges under a plan similar to the "Missouri Non-Partisan Court Plan" effective on February 1, 1964, under which judges shall be initially appointed from a list submitted by The Metropolitan Court Nominating Council, and thereafter periodically stand for election on the basis of their individual judicial records without political campaign.

FOR THE AMENDMENT	63,739	
AGAINST THE AMENDMENT	32,171	

## PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 10

Amendment to The Home Rule Charter to provide for four County Commission Districts, and for a thirteen member Board of County Commissioners consisting of eight Commissioners elected from Districts, four Commissioners elected within Municipalities, and a Chairman elected at large, and providing for the termination of office of all present Commissioners thirty days after the 1964 state secondary primary election.

FOR THE AMENDMENT	21,264	
AGAINST THE AMENDMENT	71,434	

## PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 11

Amendment to The Home Rule Charter to provide a salary of \$17,500 for the Chairman and a salary of \$15,000 for all other County Commissioners.

FOR THE AMENDMENT	10,411	
AGAINST THE AMENDMENT	81,651	



March 9, 1976

### Charter Amendment No. 2

Shall the Charter be amended to provide for staggered terms for members of the County Commission so that the Mayor and four County Commissioners will be elected for four year terms beginning in 1976 and the other four County Commissioners will be elected for two year terms in 1976 and for four year terms beginning in 1978, instead of all nine members of the Commission being elected at the same time?

### Enmienda a los Estatutos No. 2

¿Deberán enmendarse los Estatutos para permitir términos escalonados a los miembros de la Junta de Comisionados del Condado, de modo que el Alcalde y cuatro Comisionados del Condado sean elegidos por un término de cuatro años que empiece en 1976 y que los otros cuatro Comisionados del Condado sean elegidos por un término de dos años en 1976 y por un término de cuatro años a partir de 1978, en vez de que sean elegidos al mismo tiempo los nueve miembros de la Junta?

FOR PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT	
A FAVOR DE LA ENMIENDA PROPUESTA	137,637
AGAINST PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT	
EN CONTRA DE LA ENMIENDA PROPUESTA	99,407

### Charter Amendment No. 3

Shall the Charter be amended to provide for annual salaries for the Mayor and County Commissioners, in accordance with State Law instead of \$6,000 per year?

### Enmienda a los Estatutos No. 3

¿Se modificarán los Estatutos para permitir salarios anuales al Alcalde y a los Comisionados del Condado, de acuerdo con la Ley del Estado, en vez de \$6,000 anuales?

FOR PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT	
A FAVOR DE LA ENMIENDA PROPUESTA	43,706
AGAINST PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT	
EN CONTRA DE LA ENMIENDA PROPUESTA	206,693

### Water Bond Question

Shall bonds of the County of Dade, Florida in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$97,500,000.00 issued under the provisions of Ordinance No. 76-6, maturing at such time or times not exceeding thirty (30) years from their date or dates as may be determined by the Board of County Commissioners and bearing interest at a rate or rates not exceeding the legal rate, as shall be determined at the time of sale thereof, and to be payable from unlimited ad valorem taxes, for the purpose of paying, with any other available funds and revenue the cost of additional water supply, treatment and transmission facilities.

### Propuesta de Bonos Para el Agua

Han de emitirse bonos del Condado de Dade, Florida con arreglo a las estipulaciones de la Ordenanza 76-6, con un principal no mayor de \$97,500,000.00, pagaderos en fecha(s) que no exceda(n) las treinta (30) años desde su(s) fecha(s) de expedidos, según se determine por la Junta de Comisionados del Condado, y devenguen interés que no exceda de la tasa legal, como se determine en el momento de la venta, y que pague mediante impuestos ilimitados ad valorem, con propósito de pagar, conjuntamente con otros fondos ingresos disponibles, el costo de abastecimiento de agua su tratamiento y acueductos adicionales.

FOR BOND QUESTION	
A FAVOR DE LA PROPUESTA DE BONOS	163,38
AGAINST BOND QUESTION	
EN CONTRA DE LA PROPUESTA DE BONOS	81,31

MARCH 11, 1980

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS NO. 1****ARTICLE VII, SECTION 6**

Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to provide a homestead exemption of \$25,000 from certain ad valorem school millage levies, providing authorization for ad valorem tax relief for permanent resident renters, and providing that the \$25,000 exemption from certain ad valorem school millage levies shall take effect upon approval by the voters and apply to the taxes levied on the assessment rolls for the year 1980 and each year thereafter.

FOR THE AMENDMENT	145	➡
AGAINST THE AMENDMENT	146	➡

132,357

47,844

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 2****ARTICLE V, SECTION 3**

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to modify the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.

FOR THE AMENDMENT	154	➡
AGAINST THE AMENDMENT	155	➡

99,263

54,619

**DADE COUNTY****PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT**

Shall Section 1.06 of the Home Rule Charter be amended to provide that the Mayor and County Commissioners receive a salary of \$12,000 per year instead of the current \$6,000 per year?

FOR PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT	164	➡
AGAINST PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT	166	➡

68,029

113,171

9/19/2002

## County Question No. 212

### Charter Amendment Regarding Salaries of County Commissioners

Shall the Charter be amended so that county commissioners no longer receive the \$6,000 annual salary established in 1957 and they commence receiving as of the effective date of this amendment the salary provided by a state formula based on population used by other Florida counties including Broward County (currently approximately \$80,500)?

YES 212 ☒

NO 213 ☒

## County Question No. 215

### Charter Amendment Relating to County Budget Process

Shall the Charter be amended to require that annually the mayor deliver a budget message in March, the county manager submit a proposed budget between June 1 and July 15, and the mayor provide a response by July 31?

YES 215 ☒

NO 216 ☒

## County Question No. 218

### Charter Amendment Creating the Position of Commission Auditor

Shall the Charter be amended to create the Office of Commission Auditor to be selected by and report directly to the Board of County Commissioners with the responsibility to provide the Commission budgetary, audit, management revenue forecasting, and fiscal analyses of Commission policies and county services and contracts?

YES 218 ☒

NO 219 ☒

## County Question No. 221

### Charter Amendment Relating to Terms and Number of County Commissioners

Shall the Charter be updated in accordance with federal court orders to reflect that the Board of County Commissioners consists of thirteen members each elected from a single-member district and serving staggered terms?

YES 221 ☒

NO 222 ☒

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